

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

At the time of your Office Action, claims 1-5, 9, 12-20, 23-25, 32, 34-39 and 42 were pending in the Present Application. Claims 9, 18, 32, 34, and 39 were withdrawn from consideration. In your Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 12-17, 19, 20, 23-25, 35-38 and 39.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claim amendments, claims 37-38 have been withdrawn from further consideration. These withdrawn claims relate to a separate embodiment that will be the subject of a continuing application. The claims of the Present Application were the subject of a restriction/election. The Applicant does not wish to address the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections of claims 37 and 38 in this reply. However, based upon the withdrawals of these claims, rejections of claims 37 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112 and 102 are now moot.

Claim Objections

In §4 of the Detailed Action Section of your Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 12 and 21 because they depend upon canceled claims 10 and 21 respectively. The Examiner treated claim 12 as though it depended upon claim 1. The Examiner required appropriate correction.

Claim 12 has been amended to depend on claim 1.

Claim 21 was previously canceled, and has not been revived herewith. However, claim 24 depends upon canceled claim 21. The Applicant believes that the Examiner was referring to claim 24 in her objection. Claim 24 has been amended to depend on claim 15 in response to the Examiner requirement.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

In §5 of the Detailed Action Section of your Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 12-14, 24, 35-38, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In §9 of the Detailed Action Section of your Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 1-5, 9, 12-14, 24, 35-36, and 42 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the objection to the Drawings set forth in your Office Action, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 was amended to comply with all of the Examiner's requirements to overcome the rejections. The term "support means" has been changed to "means for supporting" throughout the claim. Claim 1 was further amended on line 15 to replace the phrase "a means for mounting with at least two mounting points" with the phrase "a means for mounting said rigid bracket means to the means for supporting with at least two mounting points."

Claims 13 and 14 were similarly amended, substituting the term "means for supporting" for "support means," according to the Examiner's requirements.

Regarding claim 24, the "protrusion" was a term referred to prior to the previous set of amendments. In her Reply to your First Office Action, the term "protrusion" was changed to "resting device." Claim 24 still retained the old term reciting this element. Therefore, claim 24 is amended herewith to substitute the term "resting device" for the term "protrusion" throughout the claim. This amendment along with the amendment making claim 24 dependent upon claim 15 should satisfy the Examiner's requirements regarding claim 24.

Claims 37 and 38 were withdrawn from further consideration. Therefore the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections of these claims are now moot.

Finally, regarding claims 15 and 42, the Examiner objected to the lock feature recited in element (vii) of claim 15 and the "locking mechanism" recited as included within the "pivot mechanism" in element (d) of claim 42. The drawings have been amended to include this feature. Furthermore, regarding the Examiner's assertion that the claim omits an operative connection between elements "two rigid padded straight elements" of a "resting device" and the "rigid bracket," claim 42 has been amended to include the "pivot mechanism" in the preamble as an integral part of the "rigid bracket." Elements (b) through (d) describe the functions of the "pivot mechanism."

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATION

Applicant submits amendments to the drawings herewith. FIG. 15(f) is a new drawing showing the leg-resting element in various positions around the pivot 41 between the "upright" horizontal (use) position and the "flat down" vertical position. This is not new matter, as it merely combines the views shown in Figures 15(a) through 15(e), and illustrates the intermediate positions between them. It is logical reasoning that during traversal from the horizontal to the

vertical positions; the leg-resting element must pass through intermediate positions.

FIG. 22(a) has been amended to indicate the pivot 41. Figures 22(b) and 22(c) have been amended to indicate where cross-sections are taken to produce Figures 22(d) through 22(k). Figures 22(d) through 22(k) on drawing sheets 19 and 20 are new. A typical locking mechanism, 42, is shown as an example of a locking mechanism for locking the leg rest in place and for unlocking the leg rest. The locking mechanism shown in Figures 22(e), 22(g), 22(i), and 22(k) is shown as an example of a locking mechanism that may be used for this purpose. Its features are neither described nor claimed. Any prior art or novel locking mechanism may be used. The claimed invention only recites that a locking mechanism is required. Considering that the drawings of Figures 22 and 23 have been rearranged, and that the number of drawing sheets has changed, Applicant resubmits the entire set of drawings for reconsideration.

Nevertheless, the function of the pivot mechanism as recited in claims 1, 15, and 42 that illustrates the leg resting element to move angularly ranging from the longitudinal direction of the shaft to a direction essentially perpendicular to the shaft may not be shown adequately in the figures. FIG. 15 illustrates how the pivot mechanism works. FIG. 15(a), FIG. 15(c), and FIG. 15(d) show the leg-resting element in the horizontal position, while FIG. 15(b) and FIG. 15(e) show the leg-resting element flush along the longitudinal portion of the shaft. The Applicant believes that the addition of new FIG. 15(f) will serve to show the leg-resting element in a variety of angular positions as recited in the specification and claims. No new matter has been added. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Drawings be amended to include FIG. 15(f). This drawing is being added for illustrative purposes only.

REQUEST FOR REVERSAL OF REJECTIONS AND ALLOWANCE

Based upon the aforementioned amendments, the claims still pending in the Present Application should be allowable as stated by the Examiner in §9 of the Detailed Action Section of your Office Action. The Applicant believes that he has complied with all of the Examiner's requirements for correction based on her objections and rejections. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the

Examiner reverse her rejections of the pending claims and allow the entire Present Application.

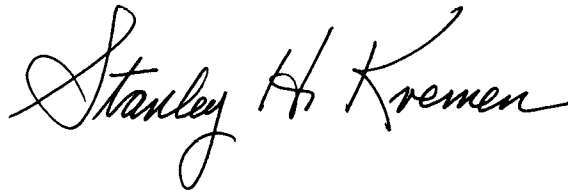
APPLICANT'S ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE A COMPLETE RESPONSE

By submitting this reply to your Office Action, the Applicant attempted in good faith to reply to every ground of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner. However, if for any reason, this reply proves to be deficient, the Applicant respectfully requests the courtesy of an Advisory Office Action that would permit Applicant to correct any deficiency.

Alternatively, if the Examiner believes that any such deficiencies are correctable by examiner amendment to bring the Present Application into condition for allowance, the Agent of Record would welcome a telephone interview with the Examiner to accomplish this goal.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanley H. Kremen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'H'.

Stanley H. Kremen,
Registered Patent Agent
Registration No. 51900
Customer No. 34325